

June 11, 1999

Docket No. 99D-0557  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD. 20852

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Dear FDA:

I am writing to point out that pigs are not any safer than nonhuman primates in the use of Nonhuman Primate Xenografts, and I demand that pig to human transplants be banned, and appreciate your wise ban on primate derived sources.

I must remind you that your agency violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to perform an environmental impact statement before allowing clinical xenotransplantation experiments. Xenotransplantation is recieving substantial public (and private) financing without adequate public debate, and I do NOT want my tax dollars used to develop xenotransplantation. There are safer, more cost-effective, and humane alternatives to xenotransplantation that are NOT being explored such as preventive medicine to reduce the need for transplants, and increasing the pool of human organs as many European countries have done.

I demand that the Depart. of Health and Human Services ban xenotransplantation from ALL nonhuman species immediately.

Who will pay for the hidden costs of breeding, housing, feeding, medicating, screening, transporting, rendering, and disposing of the waste and remains of herds of transgenic pigs? Can we justify raising more pigs for human use at a time when the EPA is placing new restrictions on livestock pollution? Over 45 million Americans lack basic health care, and I am one of many who have NO medical coverage, can we spend vast amounts of **money** on expensive transplants?

Is it fair that taxpayers would be forced to pay for a multi-million dollar registry and archive to house blood and tissue from source animals and patients for at least 50 years to monitor xenograft recipients and their close contacts for signs of infection? Who would be held accountable if a zoonotic virus spreads to the human population?

Why do many European countries have much higher organ donation rates than the U.S.? Given the acknowledged danger xenotransplantation poses to individual patients and society at large, does the technology deserve continued public support?

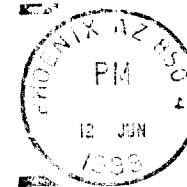
It is imparative that your administration thoroughly address these vital points and valid questions, which must lead you to also ban pig to human transplants.

Sincerely,  
*Donna Worthington*  
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